

The Tragedie of Hamlet

Ham. I will watch to night
Perchance twill walke againe.

Hora. I warn't it will.

Ham. If it assume my noble fathers person,
Ilespeake to it though hell it selfe should gape
And bid me hold my peace; I pray you all
If you haue hitherto conceald this sight
Let it be tenable in your silence still,
And whatsoeuer else shall hap to night,
Giue it an vnderstanding but no tongue;
I will requite your loues, so fare you well:
Vpon the platforme twixt eleuen and twelue
Ile visit you.

All. Our dutie to your honour. *Exeunt.*

Ham. Your loues as mine to you, farewell.
My fathers spirit (in armes) all is not well,
I doubt some foule play, would the night were come
Till then sit still my soule, foule deeds will rise
Though all the earth ore-whelme them to mens eies. *Exit.*

Enter Laertes and Ophelia his Sister.

Laer. My necessities are imbarke, farewell,
And sister as the winds giue benefit
And conuay, in assistant, doe not sleepe
But let me heare from you.

Ophe. Doe you doubt that?

Laer. For *Hamlet* and the trifling of his fauour,
Hold it a fashion, and a toy in bloud,
A violet in the youth of primie nature,
Forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting,
The perfume and suppliance of a minute
No more.

Ophe. No more but so.

Laer. Thinke it no more.
For nature creffant does nor grow alone,
In thewes and bulkes, but as this Temple waxes
The inward seruice of the mind and soule
Growes wide withall, perhaps he loues you now,
And now no soile nor cautell doth besmerch
The vertue of his will, but you must feare,

His

Prince of Denmarke.

His greatnesse waide, his will is not his owne.
He may not as vnualued persons doe,
Craue for himselfe, for on his choice depends
The safetie and health of this whole state,
And therefore must his choise be circumscrib'd,
Vnto the voice and yeelding of that bodie,
Whereof he is the head, then if he saies he loues you,
It fits your wisdome so farre to belecue it
As he in his particular act and place
May giue his saying deed, which is no further,
Then the maine voice of *Denmarke* goes withall.
Then weigh what losse your honour may sustaine,
If with too credent eare you list his songs
Or loose your heart, or your chaste treasure open,
To his vnmaistred importunitie.

Feare it *Ophelia*, feare it my deare sister,
And keepe you in the reare of your affection
Out of the shot and danger of desire,

"The charest maide is prodigall enough
If she vnmaske her beautie to the Moone

"Vertue it selfe scapes not calumnious strokes

"The Canker gaules the infant of the Spring

Too oft before their buttons be disclos'd,

And in the morne and liquid dew of youth

Contagious blastments are most imminent,

Be warie then, best safetie lies in feare,

Youth to it selfe rebels, though none else neere.

Ophe. I shall the effect of this good lesson keepe;

As watchmen to my heart: but good my brother

Doe not as some vngracious Pastors doe.

Shew me the steepe and thornie way to heauen

Whiles a puffed, and reckles libertine,

Himselfe the primrose path of dalliance treads.

And reakes not his owne Reed.

Enter Polonius.

Laer. O feare me not,

I stay too long, but heere my father comes.

A double blessing, is a double grace,

Occasion smiles vpon a second leaue.

Pol. Yet here *Laertes*? aboard, aboard for shame,

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